GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3626
ANSWERED ON:12.12.2001
POLIO ERADICATION PROGRAMME
SURESH PASI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `Polio Ke Nam Par Sarkari Khajane Ko Hi Apahij Bana Dala` appearing in the Dainik Jagaran dated October 27, 2001;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(d) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) to (d) A statement is annexed.
STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 3626 BY SURESH PASI FOR REPLY ON DECEMBER 12, 2001.

The news-item referred to in the question appeared on the October 27, 2001 issue of Dainik Jagran.The report appears to be based on the findings of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Human Resource Development for the year 2001-02.The Report in para 7.3 makes the following observations:-

`The Committee, while appreciating the various efforts made by the Department under the Immunization Programme is perturbed to observe that there is a trend of under- utilisation of funds meant for Pulse-Polio Immunization Programme in respect of some States/UTs. Major defaulters are as indicated below :-

State	1998-99		1999-2000	
	Allocation	Expenditure	Allocation	Expenditure
Andhra Pradesh	320.92	14.46	945.84	389.37
Bihar	672.65	287.24	1214.05	324.70
Orissa	264.76	164.30	683.04	0.00
Rajasthan	414.89	92.43	890.45	162.55
U.P.	1035.19	209.03	1834.19	68.53

The Committee would like to be apprised about the status of Pulse Polio Immunization Programme in the above- mentioned States. The Committee also feels that these States should be approached without any delay for removal of bottlenecks/misgivings, if any, being faced by them in the implementation of Pulse-Polio Immunization Programme.`

It may be seen from the report that it does not talk of financial irregularities in utilizing funds for the Pulse Polio Programme, but focuses on under utilization of funds for this programme in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan and UP, it is a fact that at the point of time when the report was finalized, full Statements of Expenditure for the Pulse-Polio Programme in respect of 98-99 and 99-2000 were not available from the States. Most of the assistance provided to the State for the Pulse Polio Programme goes from the Government of India as `kind support` in the form of vaccine, cold chain, etc. Funds, however, are specifically allotted to the States for (1) Information, Education and Communication at the State, district and ground level (2) mobility support (3) logistics and (4) POL, support.

As these activities take place everywhere, in all villages and towns in the country, on the days when the Pulse Polio Programme is held, some time is taken by the States in furnishing the statements of expenditure. The latest updated expenditure report in respect of the States mentioned in the report of the HRD Committee for the year 98- 99 and 99-2000 is given below :

State	1998-99		1999-2000	
	Allocation	Expenditure+	Allocation	Expenditure+
Andhra Pradesh	320.92	281.00 #	945.84	891.06 ++
Bihar	672.65	524.50(a)	1160.05	756.53 ++
Orissa	264.76	231.83 #	683.04	646.64 #
Rajasthan	419.89	314.99 @	1042.44	959.11 @
U.P.	1035.19	583.27 #	1834.19	1697.57 ++

Ã° Provisional
The State Governments have refunded the balance amount in full.
@ The State Governments have refunded the balance amount in part. Balance amount is awaited from them.
++ Refund of balance amount is awaited from the States

It would be seen from the above facts that the State Governments have by and large reported the expenditure and refunded the balance amount. However, one case of alleged financial irregularity of PPI funds by some officials of Rajasthan Government is presently under investigation by Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The HRD Committee`s report also makes certain general observationsin para No XV, on certain instances of financial irregularities or shortcomings noticed by the Central internal Audit Party Team (CIAP), whileconducting inspection of 158 Family Welfare units, irregularities pointed out by the CIAP have been brought to the noticeof all the concerned States. The Programme Officers have also been advised to take up the matter with the concerned State Governments for rectifying the irregularities. In the event of persistent failure on the part of the State Government to take appropriate action, the Ministry has already informed the HRD Committee in its Action Taken Report that it might consider withholding the amount objected to by the Audit Partyfrom further releases to be made to these States in future. It may be noted that the Family Welfare programme is a large sector-wide programme, implemented at various levels and the expenditure incurred under this programme is also duty audited, every year, by the Controller and Auditor General. The observations of the CIAP deal with the Family Welfare Programme in general and not the Pulse Polio Programme specifically.